

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 14, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: VIC REIS  
FROM: GIL RYE *Gil*  
SUBJECT: Initial NSDD Draft

Thank you for your memo of May 10. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the initial draft and look forward to the meeting on May 18. I thought it might be useful for you to have my comments in writing prior to Tuesday's meeting.

Although I appreciate the considerable amount of work that has gone into the document to date, I feel it still has a long way to go. I have a long list of detailed comments, but three major areas of concern:

- First, the draft is much too long. It is currently 28 double-spaced pages which is certainly not appropriate for forwarding to the President. Most of the NSDDs approved to date are in the 1-4 page area. I suggest we boil it down to the essential policy requiring Presidential approval, and if additional guidance is necessary we can place it in an annex.
- Second, it is difficult to evaluate the adequacy of the policy without knowing what portions of Presidential Directives 37, 42 and 54 are being retained or changed. Thus, it would be very useful to have a side-by-side comparison of this document with the documents that it supersedes.
- Finally, there appears to be at least two major areas of omission that deserve policy emphasis and maybe more. The current draft makes no mention of an overarching policy concerning man in space. For example, the policy could emphasize capitalizing on our investment in the Shuttle (i.e., on-orbit repair, servicing, etc.) while simultaneously investing in future manned concepts such as the space station, the advanced military space flight capability (AMSC) and others. Also, the policy does not adequately step up to the issue of space weapons, an area of significant and increasing importance.

In order to get the document in shape, I strongly suggest you form a Draft Working Group subordinate to you and composed of a small number of representatives from those agencies most affected by the policy. This Group could take your first draft and provide a quality product in a matter of a few days. In addition, the Group could perform the side-by-side comparison mentioned previously.

Until another shorter draft is produced, a meeting devoted to line-in line-outs would not be very productive. Therefore, I suggest Tuesday's session be devoted to general discussion of broader issues.

At our last meeting you asked my advice on procedures for processing the NSDD. The National Security Advisor is the central point for obtaining Presidential approval of all NSDDs and NSSDs. When we feel that the document is in appropriate shape for approval I will forward it through Judge Clark to the President for signature. Prior to this step, however, Judge Clark will have to forward the NSDD to all agencies for final coordination.

I look forward to working closely with you on this project. Obviously, we share a common desire to produce a quality product.